

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated January 27, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response extended one-month set to expire on May 27, 2006.

Claims 1-29 remain pending in the application after entry of this response. Claims 4, 5, 8, 9, and 12-21 stand withdrawn by the Examiner. Claims 1, 10, and 11 are rejected and claims 2, 3, 6, and 7 are objected to by the Examiner. New claims 22-29 have been added. Reconsideration of the pending claims is requested for reasons presented below.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 10, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by *Welfonder*. *Welfonder* has pull cord 15 and bead chain 19, however only the pull cord 15 can move the carriers along the head rail. Therefore, *Welfonder* does not teach, show, or suggest a first operating device for moving the plurality of carriers along the head rail and a second operating device for moving the plurality of carriers along the head rail as disclosed in claims 1, 10 and 11. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 1, 10, and 11 are in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants have amended 2 to include all the limitations of the base claims. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 2, 3, and 6-7 are in condition for allowance.

New Claims

New claims 22-29 have been added. No new matter has been added. The references cited by the Examiner do not teach, show, or suggest moving the first active carrier longitudinally along a head rail, moving the second active carrier longitudinally along the head rail and moving one or more passive carriers by moving at least one of the first and second active carriers as disclosed in claim 26 and claim 27 which depends therefrom. Further, the references cited by the Examiner do not teach, show, or


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suggest a first operating device configured to move the first master carrier longitudinally along a head rail and a second operating device configured to move the second master carrier longitudinally along the head rail as disclosed in new claim 24 and claims 25-27 which depend therefrom. Claims 28 and 29 depend from claim 1. As stated above, Applicant submits that claim 1 is in condition for allowance and thus, claims 28 and 29 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 22-29 are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

The references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,


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